



EXHIBIT 1 100H  
DATE 2-20-09  
HB HJ 25

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## House Human Services Committee

### HJ 25

### Study of Medicaid Eligibility Determination Process

HJ 25 asks the Department of Public Health and Human Services to work in cooperation with providers, consumers and other interested parties to examine the issues surrounding difficulties being encountered by nursing homes and those seeking medical assistance for a nursing home stay.

It is often difficult for nursing home residents and their families to maneuver the Medicaid application process. This is especially true when the applicant has annuities, insurance policies, or other property. Most often it is a family member who is trying to complete the process. Sometimes original documents are required and they are difficult, if not impossible to find. Families make a bona fide effort to do what's required, but in some cases it seems that whatever they do is not enough. They can spend many months, and sometimes over a year, getting through the process. They can go through administrative hearings and appeals.

Normally, while all of this is going on, the nursing home is not being paid. The facility providing the care can be owed tens of thousands of dollars before a determination is finally made.

This study is not about getting more people qualified for Medicaid. It is about trying to figure out what can be done to make the process more reasonable for the families involved and for the nursing facilities, and what can be done to assure more timely determinations.

I think the Department agrees that it is time to try to sort out which parts of the process are mandated by the federal government and which are subject to interpretation by the state. We believe that in the areas where the state has discretion, we may be able to improve the process, while still ensuring that only those who meet eligibility criteria are deemed eligible to receive Medicaid benefits.

Please support HJ 25.

*Rose M. Hughes, Executive Director  
February 20, 2009*

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